


Remarks

By way of the foregoing amendments, independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to specify that the operative section is configured such that it can be screwed into the bone. The applied references have not been found to disclose or suggest this feature in a combination similar to that claimed. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn.

This application is submitted as be in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

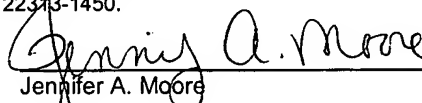
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: September 9, 2005


Jennifer A. Moore

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